Rivers originating from neighbouring countries

†1527. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will te Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many rivers originating from the neighbouring countries are the cause of gigantic loss of lives and properties in India;

(b) if so, the details of the rivers and the countries from where these rivers originate;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of quantity of additional water of the rivers coming from other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. Some rivers originating from neighbouring countries at times cause considerable loss of lives and properties in India.

(b) Northern tributaries of Ganga originating in Nepal, and Brahmaputra and its northern tributaries originating in China (Tibet) and Bhutan.

(c) and (d) Central Water Commission has Gauge & discharge sites in its territory on the major international rivers flowing through India. The quantum of flow of these rivers varies year to year.

Linking of Rivers

†1528. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of nationalisation of rivers has gained a positive approach with the Chief Ministers;

(b) if so, by when Government will receive the detailed report regarding mutual linking of rivers as well as constructing links and canals; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by Government to avoid the financial constraints likely to occur in the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisaged inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilization of water resources. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was constituted in 1982 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 to carry out the water balance studies and prepare feasibility report of the schemes of National Perspective Plan (NPP). NWDA has identified 30 links under NPP for preparation of feasibility reports and has completed feasibility reports of 8 link projects. The Union Government has set-up a Task Force on December 13, 2002 with a view to bring about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., for implementing the interlinking of rivers. The Task Force, *inter alia*, has been entrusted with the task of submitting an Action Plan giving alternative options for funding and suggested methods of cost recovery.

Pending Irrigation Projects

1529. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects pending in the country and the amount required for their completion indicating the details thereof;

(b) what is the proposed cost of the national river linking project;

(c) what is the justification behind taking up the national river linking project; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to fund the river-linking project?